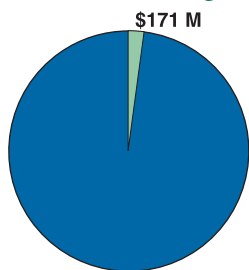


Goal 7 FY 2001 Obligations



Note: EPA FY 2001 Total Obligations were \$9,007 million

GOAL 7: EXPANSION OF AMERICANS' RIGHT TO KNOW ABOUT THEIR ENVIRONMENT

Easy access to a wealth of information about the state of their local environment will expand citizen involvement and give people tools to protect their families and their communities as they see fit. Increased information exchange between scientists, public health officials, businesses, citizens, and all levels of government will foster greater knowledge about the environment and what can be done to protect it.

PROGRESS TOWARD STRATEGIC GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

EPA's Right-to-Know goal has expanded over the past 5 years.¹ Today EPA is providing broader access to more environmental information than ever before. The Agency's work under Goal 7 recognizes that environmental information is not just a collection of data but rather a strategic resource to be used by many different stakeholders and partners, including federal agencies, states, tribes, local governments and communities, regulated businesses, environmental groups, the public, and EPA's own programs.

FY 2001 PERFORMANCE

Environmental information is one of EPA's most valuable tools for protecting human health and the environment. Ultimately, environmental information must be accessible and useful to the public. During FY 2001 EPA and its partners continued to make progress in the development and implementation of the National Environmental Information Exchange Network, an advanced approach to sharing, managing, and exchanging environmental information. In addition, EPA laid the groundwork for designing an enterprise-wide information technology architecture that will provide a solid foundation for its electronic government initiatives. The Agency is working to ensure that it has the right information, useful analytical tools, and sufficient access to enable decision-makers at all levels to more effectively evaluate environmental conditions that affect the health and well-being of the public.

EPA is working to increase the amount of information available to stakeholders and partners and has made progress in many areas. By the end of FY 2001, EPA had implemented significant improvements to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program, which greatly increased the amount of information available to the public and helped focus industry's attention on ways to reduce toxic chemical releases. The Agency further improved its web site, which is now easier to use and increases the public's access to a wealth of information at the local level about the state of the environment, thereby helping expand understanding and providing tools to protect families, communities, and environment; the new homepage features links to hot issues, key topics, geography- and audience-specific information, and more. EPA's information infrastructure is more effective and secure than that of the past. The progress made in FY 2001 moved EPA and the states measurably forward in achieving the national vision of e-government.

Access to Environmental Information

Providing the public with efficient electronic access to environmental information is essential. Never was this more apparent than in the days following September 11, 2001. EPA quickly made available electronic access to information on environmental quality, giving the public and residents of the New York City (NYC) area timely information about local conditions. EPA worked closely with state, federal, and local authorities to determine whether dangerous levels of contaminants were present in ambient air,

¹ In FY 2002 Goal 7 becomes "Quality Environmental Information." A description of the new Goal 7 and its component objectives can be found in EPA's updated Strategic Plan (EPA 190-R-00-002), published in September 2000.

EPA'S RESPONSE TO SEPTEMBER 11, 2001: PROVIDING CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC

EPA has worked closely with New York and New Jersey to make air quality data for the New York City region available to the public. The EPA web site (<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/wtc/>) allows users to view monitoring data for nine different air contaminants collected in the vicinity of New York City.

Maps can be viewed for all of New York City, Upper Manhattan, Lower Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens, Staten Island, and New Jersey. By clicking on any of the sampling locations, users can view data collected since September 11, 2001.



drinking water sources, and surface water runoff near the disaster sites. Drinking water and runoff in lower Manhattan were sampled and tested, and repeated monitoring of ambient air was conducted at the World Trade Center disaster site, in the surrounding New York and New Jersey areas, and in the vicinity of the Pentagon. As soon as the results of monitoring were finalized, EPA made the data available to the public through its public access web site (<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/wtc/>).

Today the site also provides a comprehensive, interactive tool, EnviroMapper for NYC response, that allows users to view monitoring data in conjunction with maps showing the location of sampling stations around lower Manhattan and in New Jersey. Users can select a location and see where monitoring activities are being conducted, review measurements for many substances (e.g., asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls [PCBs], benzene, particulates), see aerial photographs of the area, search by location for all information about a particular site, or follow routes used by trucks and barges to haul away debris and materials. In addition, individuals from across the country can use EnviroMapper (<http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/em/index.html>) to plot the locations of regulated facilities in the area.

EPA is also developing an Agency-wide Public Access Strategy to guide activities and improve management of the web site and other information channels. In FY 2001 EPA implemented policies to

ensure effective and efficient practices in its public access efforts and launched its redesigned web site, <http://www.epa.gov>, that has more features and information and better meets the needs of users.

EPA's TRI Program, which publishes data on toxic pollutants released into the environment, is a significant contributor to the Agency's public information holdings. EPA published the 1999 TRI data on April 11, 2001, accompanied by an improved version of TRI Explorer (<http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer/>), an on-line "search and query" tool for both environmental professionals and members of the public. In January 2001 the Final TRI Lead Rule, which lowered the thresholds for the manufacturing, processing, and otherwise using of lead and lead compounds to 100 pounds, went into effect. Facilities exceeding this threshold for lead are required to report their releases and other waste management activities to EPA. This will increase the amount of information on releases and other waste management activities of lead and lead compounds made available to the public. During FY 2001 EPA also conducted 44 TRI workshops for 3,000 participants to educate those subject to TRI reporting requirements.

While making much progress in improving electronic access to environmental information, the Agency faces the challenge of increasing the use of that information by environmental managers and the public. In FY 2001 EPA began work to develop indicators of environmental quality. This effort will

result in a set of tools to strengthen understanding of environmental conditions and human health effects and will serve as the basis for a national state of the environment report, scheduled for release in FY 2003.

Information Integration

More efficient information exchange between EPA and its partners and Internet-based access to information holdings at the national, regional, state, and local levels will be essential in the future. Since 1998 EPA and the states have been working to develop the National Environmental Information Exchange Network—a secure, electronic, Internet-based network for integrating, managing, and sharing environmental data. The Exchange Network will be a common intergovernmental framework and will showcase EPA's move to e-government.

The Central Data Exchange (CDX), described at <http://www.epa.gov/cdx>, is the new portal for EPA's environmental data exchanges and a key component of the Exchange Network. The CDX is “open for business” and supports more than 40 states and nearly 3,000 other registered users, including territories, tribes, laboratories, and industry. Users of the Network now have access to a suite of functions (e.g., user registration, information security, data receipt, data processing, data distribution, and web hosting) necessary to support secure electronic data exchange between EPA and its industry and government partners.

EPA's Facility Registry System (FRS), <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/facility.html>, also a key component of the Exchange Network, is a centrally managed database that provides Internet access to a single source of comprehensive information on facilities subject to EPA's environmental regulations. When the Exchange Network is fully operational, FRS master files will be the single, authoritative source for facility-specific environmental information. At the close of FY 2001, FRS had more than 630,000 records from 6 major EPA national information systems and master facility records from 8 states, exceeding the Agency's FY 2001 and FY 2002 targets.

Common data standards used by all partners are essential to the Exchange Network. Data standards, or agreed-upon formats and procedural rules for commonly used data sets, are needed to reduce the complexity of data manipulation and to make the exchange and integration of data more efficient.

A State Partner's Perspective on the National Environmental Information Exchange Network

“EPA and States have always been in the business of sharing environmental data; it's a requirement for running environmental programs. Now through our National Environmental Information Exchange Network partnership we're developing a new e-commerce model for doing this business with better, higher quality data, using jointly developed data standards and the latest Web-based technologies being widely adopted by many industry and government sectors. Our goals are less burdensome data transactions for every level—regulated facilities, States, Tribes, EPA—better information for program management decisions, and improved public assessment of real environmental conditions in New Hampshire and across the country.”

—Dana Bisbee, Assistant Commissioner, State of New Hampshire, Department of Environmental Services and Co-Chair of the ECOS State/EPA Information Management Workgroup

During FY 2001 the Environmental Data Standards Council (EDSC)—a group of experts from EPA, the states, and the tribes—completed its review of two new data standards and took steps to develop EPA business rules for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, and Permitting. The EDSC also initiated development of the next set of data standards.

Information Quality

In FY 2001 EPA also worked to ensure the quality of environmental information provided electronically through its public web site. The Agency Integrated Error Correction Process (IECP), launched in May 2000, is the Agency's principal tool for web site users to report data errors for resolution. By the close of FY 2001 EPA had resolved 650 of the 1,000 suspected errors reported from May 2000 through September 2001.

Information Infrastructure

In FY 2001 EPA significantly increased the capacity of its information technology infrastructure to support greater public access to environmental information and to facilitate secure exchange of information among stakeholders. The Agency also

made improvements in providing secure, cost-effective telecommunications and computing capabilities.

In FY 2001 EPA improved its security measures for electronic information exchange with its external business partners using virtual private network (VPN) technology, one of the most effective security technology currently available. Additional security improvements included an Agency-wide review of security systems for all servers attached to the EPA network, formalized internal and independent security reviews for Agency information systems, and implementation of improved security monitoring tools.

In FY 2001 EPA implemented an Enterprise Architecture Planning process to more closely align the Agency's information technology investments with its environmental goals. This effort strengthens Information Technology (IT) investment decision making and management while saving resources.

Research Contributions

In FY 2001 EPA completed new or updated consensus human health assessments for seven

environmental substances of high priority to the Agency. These assessments, which were incorporated into the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) and made publicly available (<http://www.epa.gov/iris/>), describe the potential human health impacts of various chemicals found in the environment. This information is used for hazard identification and dose-response evaluations in risk assessments across EPA, at the state level, and by the public. EPA also enhanced its ability to make research information available to the public by expanding its science inventory, which is publicly available through the Environmental Information Management System (EIMS; <http://www.epa.gov/eims>). EIMS will provide decision-makers with the best scientific information to protect human health and the environment and will ensure that research efforts are complementary.

STATE AND TRIBAL PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

State Contributions

The Agency has worked successfully with its state and tribal partners to implement the building blocks of a National Environmental Information Exchange Network. When complete, the Exchange Network will eliminate the need for many program- and region-specific data collection systems, improve efficiencies, and thereby reduce costs.

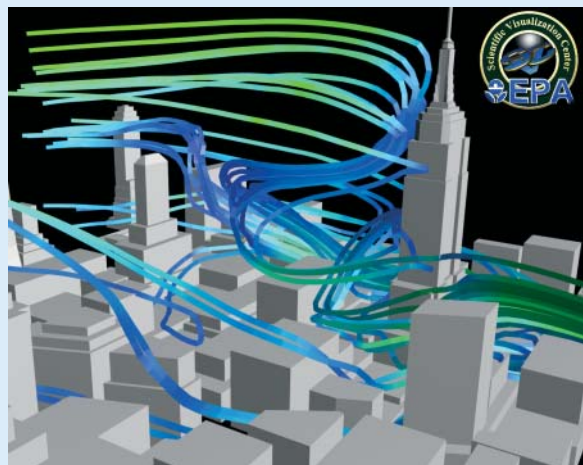
Tribal Contributions

EPA, in cooperation with The Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, is working closely with tribal representatives to ensure that tribes participate as full partners in the Agency's information initiatives. The Environmental Data Standards Council, a cooperative effort involving states, tribes, and EPA, is pursuing standard "Tribal Identifiers" for use in Agency systems and EPA's baseline assessment of environmental conditions in Indian Country.

Information Research: The Scientific Visualization Center

EPA's vision is for its Scientific Visualization Center (SVC) is to help make scientific visualization the standard tool for analyzing environmental information, bringing the results of environmental research to decision-makers, and communicating with the public about the successes and further needs of environmental protection.

Air Flow and Concentration Patterns: an example product from the SVC.



ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS OF FY 2001 PERFORMANCE ON FY 2002 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

During FY 2001 the Agency exceeded its performance goal for implementing the FRS. As a result, new targets were established for FY 2002 and beyond.

PERFORMANCE DATA CHART

The following performance data chart includes performance results for the FY 2001 APGs that support Goal 7. The performance chart reflects the Agency's 1997 Strategic Plan goals and objectives with which FY 2001 APGs are associated. Relevant FY 2000 and FY 1999 APGs are displayed for ease in

comparing performance. Data quality information for Goal 7 can be found on pages B-29 to B-32 of Appendix B, "Data Quality." The chart presents results for FY 2000 and FY 1999 APGs for which data were not available when the FY 2000 report was published, as well as for FY 2000 APGs that are not associated with FY 2001 APGs.

Summary of FY 2001 Performance		Goal 7: Right to Know	
		Annual Performance Goals and Measures	
		FY 1999–FY 2001 Results	
<div>2 Goal Met2 Goal Not Met0 Data Lag</div>			
By 2005, EPA Will Improve the Ability of the American Public to Participate in the Protection of Human Health and the Environment by Increasing the Quality and Quantity of General Environmental Education, Outreach and Data Availability Programs, Especially in Disproportionally Impacted and Disadvantaged Communities.			
Progress Toward Strategic Objective: In FY 2001 the Agency continued to develop tools and support projects that provide the public with the tools needed to make informed decisions concerning their health and the environment. EPA increased the timeliness and amount of information made available on its web sites and continued its commitment to ensuring that the Agency’s policies and programs address issues faced by low-income and minority populations through public meetings, demonstration projects, and grants.			
APG 50		Planned	Actual
FY 2001	Improve public access to compliance and enforcement documents and data through multimedia data integration projects and other studies, analyses and communication/outreach activities. Goal Not Met.		
	Performance Measures		
	- By the end of FY 2001, all ten EPA Regions will have an enforcement and compliance web site.	10	9
	- Make 90% of enforcement and compliance policies and guidances issued this fiscal year available on the Internet within 30 days of issuance.	90%	86%
	- By April 2001, make summaries of all significant cases available on the Internet.	100%	Not Available
FY 2000	Improve public access to compliance and enforcement documents and data, particularly to high risk communities, through multimedia data integration projects and other studies, analyses and communication/outreach activities. Goal Met.		
	Performance Measures		
	- Percent of OECA policy and guidance documents available on the Internet.		94%
	- Increase by 50% the number of states with direct access to Integrated Data for Enforcement Analysis (IDEA).		34 states
FY 2001 Result: Since the concept of improving public access to compliance and enforcement data is broad and difficult to quantify, the Agency established several surrogate measures representative of EPA’s efforts to provide the public with relevant enforcement information in a timely manner. Although EPA did not meet the FY 2001 targets associated with this goal, the Agency continues to increase the quantity and quality of compliance and enforcement information available to the public. See EPA’s compliance and enforcement web site, http://es.epa.gov/oeca/index.html, for more information. In addition to the Agency web site mentioned above, 9 of 10 EPA Regional web sites provide clear links to relevant Regional compliance and enforcement activities. EPA’s ongoing effort to standardize all of its web sites will address these inconsistencies and provide the public with a more uniform look and feel to Agency web pages. Delays associated with web site standardization prevented the Agency from attaining its goal of posting 90% of its compliance and enforcement policies and guidance within 30 days of issuance. The remaining documents are in the process of being posted. Lastly, the Agency routinely posts its significant enforcement cases, individually, on the web. In past years the Agency also posted a summary listing of all such cases; this comprehensive listing was the basis for the creation of the third performance measure. In FY 2001, however, the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance (OECA) did not compile a comprehensive listing. Individual cases will continue to be posted on the web site.			
APG 51		Planned	Actual
FY 2001	Ensure that EPA’s policies, programs and activities address disproportionately exposed and under-represented population issues so that no segment suffers disproportionately from adverse health and environmental effects. Goal Met.		

Performance Measures

- Award 90 grants to organizations which address environmental problems in communities comprised primarily of low income and minority populations.	90	79
- Hold 25 EPA-sponsored public meetings where disproportionately impacted and disadvantaged communities participate.	25	25
- Respond within 60 days to 75% of requests made to each Region and National Program Manager to address complaints heard during public comment period at National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (NEJAC) public meetings.	75%	> 75%
- Conduct 18 NEJAC meetings and focused roundtables in local communities where problems have been identified.	18	13
- Increase the number of demonstration projects established under the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice.	18	15

FY 2000 *Ensure that EPA's policies, programs and activities include public meetings, address minority and low income community issues so that no segment of the population suffers disproportionately from adverse health or environmental effects, and that all people live in clean, healthy and sustainable communities consistent with Executive Order 12898. Goal Met.*

Performance Measures

- Number of EPA-sponsored public meetings held where disproportionately disadvantaged communities participate.	31
- Number of grants awarded to low income, minority communities for addressing environmental problems.	62

FY 1999 *Provide over 100 grants to assist communities with understanding and address Environmental Justice (EJ) issues. Goal Met.* 100

FY 2001 Result: In FY 2001 the Agency continued its efforts to work with disproportionately exposed and underrepresented populations. The Agency pursues its commitment to environmental justice (EJ) in a variety of ways, and several surrogate indicators of progress have been established. EJ grants are awarded to community-based organizations that carry out projects to increase citizen involvement in EJ issues. In FY 2001 EPA received fewer eligible grant applications than expected, so 79 grants were awarded rather than 90. Additionally, the Agency strives to respond to comments made at public NEJAC meetings in a timely fashion. The NEJAC, a constituent-driven body, produced two policy reports in FY 2001; several of the NEJAC subcommittees met only once during the fiscal year as opposed to twice as in years past. Although there was a slight shortfall in the number of NEJAC meetings, there was no negative impact. The Agency also supports demonstration projects established under a federal interagency work group on EJ. In FY 2001 the work group developed new criteria for the selection of demonstration projects. More information on the Agency's EJ activities, including meeting summaries and grant applications, can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/oeca/ej>.

By 2005, EPA Will Improve the Ability of the Public to Reduce Exposure to Specific Environmental and Human Health Risks By Making Current, Accurate Substance-Specific Information Widely and Easily Accessible.

Progress Toward Strategic Objective: In FY 2001 the volume of TRI data increased significantly as a result of new reporting requirements for lead. EPA also published the 1999 TRI data on April 11, 2001. The new data were accompanied by an improved version of TRI Explorer (<http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer/>), an online "search and query" tool for both environmental professionals and members of the public who want to know about toxic releases in their communities, making both electronic and printed data more readily available.

APG 52		Planned	Actual
FY 2001	Process all submitted facility chemical release reports; publish annual summary of Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data; provide improved information to the public about TRI chemicals; and maximize public access to TRI information. Goal Met.		
	Performance Measures		
	- TRI Public Data Release.	1 report	1 report
	- Chemical submissions and revisions processed.	110,000	120,000

FY 2000 *Process all submitted facility chemical release reports; publish annual summary of Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data; provide improved information to the public about TRI chemicals; and maximize public access to TRI information. Goal Met.*

Performance Measures

- TRI public data release.	1
- Form R's processed.	119,000
- TRIS database complete and report issued.	on target

FY 1999 Process 110,000 facility chemical release reports, publish the TRI Data Release Report, and provide improved information to the public about TRI chemicals, enhancing community right-to-know and efficiency processing information from industry. *Goal Met.*

117,171

FY 2001 Result: A 15- to 18-month data lag is associated with the release of TRI data because of reporting cycles and data quality assurance/quality control. In FY 2001 EPA issued the *1999 TRI Public Data Release Report*. TRI is a valuable source of information regarding toxic chemicals that are being used, manufactured, treated, transported, or released into the environment. There has been a chemical emissions decrease of 46% in the manufacturing industries, or about 1.5 billion pounds over the 12 years of the program. The 1-year decrease from 1998 to 1999 was 2.5%. Additional information on TRI can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/tri>.

By 2005, EPA Will Meet or Exceed the Agency's Customer Service Standards in Providing Sound Environmental Information to Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Partners to Enhance Their Ability to Protect Human Health and the Environment.

Progress Toward Strategic Objective: In FY 2001 EPA's efforts focused on developing guidance on cumulative risk assessments and ecological risk assessments that will assist risk assessors in their research efforts. Ultimately, the use of these products will enable the Agency, as well as other environmental decision makers, to more effectively safeguard the public and the environment from potential risks.

APG 53

Planned Actual

FY 2001 Provide guidance for risk assessment to improve the scientific basis of environmental decision making. *Goal Not Met.*

Performance Measures

- | | | |
|--|-------------|---|
| - The Agency's Risk Assessment Forum will develop technical issue papers and develop a framework for preparing cumulative risk assessments. | 1 framework | 0 |
| - The Agency's Risk Assessment Forum will develop guidance on determining management objectives and selecting assessment endpoints for ecological risk assessment. | 1 guidance | 0 |

FY 2001 Result: EPA made considerable progress in developing documents to guide risk assessments. The risk assessment framework is intended to serve as initial guidance, outlining a road map for research and future guidance development efforts. EPA's guidance on selecting endpoints for ecological risk assessment will enhance EPA ecological risk assessments, contributing to more effective Agency protection of ecological resources that are important to the public. Both guidance documents took longer to develop and review than initially projected and are now scheduled to be completed in FY 2002.

FY 2000 Annual Performance Goals (No Longer Reported for FY 2001)

The Agency will streamline and improve the information reporting process between state partners and EPA by increasing the number of state participants in the One Stop Reporting program from 29 to 38.

All community water systems will issue annual consumer confidence reports according to the rule promulgated in August 1998. (This annual goal is maintained for internal reporting.)

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